Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 15616 030503Z

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COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN
CNCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15616

CINCPA ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: NEW CONCEPTS FOR DEFENSE PLANNNG, CONT.

REF: TOKYO 15074

SUMMARY. PUBLIC OF JDA'S NEW GUIDLINES CONFIRMES SEVERAL WEEKS OF PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTARY ON SAKATA'S DEFENSE POLICY. OUR VIEW OF THESE GUIDLINES ESSENTIALY AS REPORTED REFTEL. PRESENT ROUND OF SPEECHES AND ARTICLES REFLCT ONGOING JDA EFFORTS AT DEVELOPING PUBLIC CONSENSUS ON SECURITY ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON OCTOBER 29, MINSTATE SAKATA'S GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS ON GUIDLINES FOR THE POST FOURTH DEFENSE PLAN PERIOD WERE MADE PUBLIC. IN DISCUSSION THE RATINALE FOR DEFENSE POWER, SAKATA REPEATED A NUMBEROF EARLIER STATEMENTS ON (1) PREVENTION OF AGGRESSION BY "DETERRENT POWER" AND MAINTENANCE OF THE US-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP; (2) CAPABILITY FOR REPELLING SMALL-SCALE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 15616 030503Z

ATTACKS BYUNQUALITATIVEIMPROVEMENTSIN THE SDF; (3) DISASTER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

RELIEF, WHICH IS TO BE MADE A PRIMIARY MISSION OF THE SDF.

2. FRONT-PAGE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE RELEASE HAS RALLIED TO THE THEME OF "QUALITY VS. QUANTITY" IN FUTURE SDF DEVELOPMENT. ARTICLES HAVE NOTED SUCH PROBLEMS AS OPPOSTION CHARGES THAT SAKATA'S INSTRUCTIONS WILL WORK TO PREPETUATE US-JAPAN SECURITY TIES AS WELL AS BUDEGTRY DIFFICULTIES THAT THE ACQUISITION OF SOPHICTICATED EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR QUALITITAVE IMPROVEMENTS WILL ENTAIL. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS ON JDA PLANS TO SAVE MONEY FOR SUCH IMPROVEMENTS BY RELATIONS IN GSDF PERSONNEL STRENGTH. EDITIRIALS HAVE THUS FAR EMPHASIZIED THE NEED FOR PROPER CIVILAIN CONTROL OVER WHAT THEY SEE AS ENTIRELY INTRA-JDA INPUT INTO SAKATA'S NEW GUIDLINES.

3. COMMENT: THE PUBLIC RELEASE OF SAKATA'S INSTRUCTIONS REVELAED NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE NOTALREADY COVERED BE SEVERL WEEKS OF SPEECHES, INTERVIEWS, AND PRES REPORTS. INSTRUCTONS DOVETAIL WITH WHAT WE KNOW OF WORK OF GOING ON WITHIN JDA AN SDF STAFFS TO DRAW UP CONCERET PLANS FOR THE POST-4TH D.P. AS INDICATED REFTEL, SAKATA'S "NEW GUIDLINES" ARE ESSENTIALLY AN ATTEMPT AT FINDING A POLITICALLY ACCPETALBE WWAY TO REALLOCATE THE JDA'S SCARCE RESOURCES TOWARD IMPROVEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY-INTENSIVE CAPABILITIES (AIR DEFENSE, ASW, AND NECESSARY LOGISTIC SUPPORT). REDUCTION OF GSDF PERSONNEL STRENGTH IS AN OBVIOUS WAY TO CONSERVE FUNDS FOR THIS REALLOCATION.

4. THE OUTFLOW OF MEDIA REPORTS AND SPEECHES ACCOMPANYING THIS LATEST JDA ANNOUNCEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH SAKATA'S EFFORTS TO FURTHER PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF DEFENSE ISSUES. THROUGH THEIR WON SPEECHES AS WELL AS THE REPORT OF THE "ASSOCIATON TO CONSIDER DEFENSE", JDA LEADERS HAVE CONTINUED TO STRESS THE NECESSITY OF CLOSE- US-JAPAN SECURITY TIES AND THE NEED FOR MODERATE BUT CREDIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN PRESENT SDF CAPABILITIES WHILE CAREFULLY ACKNOWLEDGEING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIMITATIONS ON JAPANESE SECURITY POLICY. AS COVERAGE OF THE JDA'S NEW GUIDLINES SINKS INTO THE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS, THE GOJ WILL PROBABLY CONSIDER ITSELF IN A BETTER POSITION TO WORK ON DEVELOPMENTS IN US-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONS.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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